

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 10881 011242Z  
ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9464

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 10881

LIMDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY COOPER

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID FR  
SUBJ: GISCARD FUND FOR AFRICA

REF: (A) PARIS 6039; (B) PARIS 7091; (C) CANNER-  
MYERSON TELCON

1. ON MARCH 31, EMBASSY ECONOMIC MINISTER ASKED QUAI  
ECONOMIC DIRECTOR, FROMENT-MEURICE, IF HE COULD GIVE  
US ANY PREVIEW OF IDEAS HE WISHED TO DISCUSS WITH UNDER  
SECRETARY COOPER IN WASHINGTON APRIL 10 CONCERNING THE  
GISCARD PROPOSAL FOR A NEW FUND FOR AFRICAN  
DEVELOPMENT. THIS COULD ASSIST OUR PREPARATIONS FOR  
THE DISCUSSION.

2. FROMENT-MEURICE SAID HE PREFERRED TO RESERVE THE  
DETAILS OF HIS PRESENTATION FOR HIS CONVERSATION WITH  
THE UNDER SECRETARY. IN FACT, DETAILS OF THE  
PRESENTATION WERE STILL BEING WORKED ON. HOWEVER, HE  
COULD MAKE SOME GENERAL COMMENTS AT THIS STAGE.

3. FROMENT-MEURICE SAID THE GOF HAD REFLECTED ON THE  
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AMERICAN VIEWPOINT EXPRESSED EARLIER BY UNDER SECRETARY  
COOPER IN PARIS ON FEB 24 (REF B). THE FRENCH  
GOVERNMENT AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL APPRECIATES WASHINGTON'S  
POSITIVE APPROACH TO DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUES AND HAS  
FOUND SOME ENCOURAGING ELEMENTS IN THE SPECIFICS OF  
THE US POSITION, EVEN THOUGH FRENCH PROPOSALS WERE  
NOT 100 PERCENT ACCEPTABLE TO THE US. IN PARTICULAR,

FRANCE RECOGNIZES THAT THE US CANNOT GO ALONG WITH A NEW FUND AS SUCH.

4. THE GOF HAS THEREFORE SOUGHT TO IDENTIFY THOSE AREAS OF PRINCIPLE WHERE THE FRENCH AND AMERICAN VIEWS SEEM CLOSE TOGETHER. FROMENT-MEURICE DESCRIBED THESE AREAS IN GENERAL TERMS AS FOLLOWS: THERE COULD BE COMMON, CONCERTED ACTION INVOLVING A GROUP OF WESTERN DONORS; THIS COULD INVOLVE JOINT OR "SUPPLEMENTARY" FUNDING ON SPECIFIC PROJECTS IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES; THERE WOULD BE GREATER VISIBILITY, IMPLYING MEETINGS OF DONORS, AND PERHAPS ALSO COMMON MISSIONS; CERTAIN COUNTRIES SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED FOR SPECIAL EFFORTS; PARTICULAR ACCOUNT SHOULD BE TAKEN OF THE POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF THESE ACTIVITIES. IN SHORT FROMENT-MEURICE SAID HE WOULD NOT PRESENT A FULLY-DEVELOPED PLAN BUT WOULD PRESENT SOME DETAILED IDEAS AND SEEK TO CARRY FORWARD THE DISCUSSION WITH A VIEW TO FACILITATING AGREEMENT.

5. FROMENT-MEURICE MENTIONED FRANCE'S HOPE FOR NET NEW AMERICAN FUNDS AS A RESULT OF THE GISCARD INITIATIVE. WE REMINDED HIM OF UNDER SECRETARY COOPER'S PREVIOUS COMMENTS (REF B) TO THE EFFECT THAT (A) WE ARE ALREADY INCREASING OUR AFRICAN AID EFFORT SUBSTANTIALLY; AND (B) WE COULD MAKE NO COMMITMENT

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REGARDING ANY ADDITIONAL INCREASE. FROMENT-MEURICE SAID HE HAD UNDERSTOOD COOPER'S GENERAL POINT ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF IDENTIFYING CERTAIN ON-GOING OR PLANNED US ACTIVITIES WITH COMMON WESTERN ACTION (THE CONCEPT OF A LABEL). HOWEVER, FRANCE ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO SOME REAL CONTENT FOR ITS INITIATIVE. IT DOES NOT WANT A MERE FACADE. IT HOPES FOR AGREEMENT ON PRINCIPLES LEADING TO FUTURE ACTIONS WHICH WOULD HAVE A RECOGNIZABLE PUBLIC AND POLITICAL IMPACT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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